

Our Mission

"Living, Loving & Learning Together"

Underpinned by spirituality, founded in Christian virtues of faith, hope and love. We believe that good learning creates opportunity and enriches lives.

Living Together:

We provide a safe, secure and stimulating environment to enable each individual to become a confident, giving and responsible member of the community.

Loving Together:

We encourage forgiveness, trust and acceptance of every person. We celebrate the diversity of our school and community and encourage respect for God, self, others, the environment and the wider world.

Learning Together

We share high expectations, encourage aspiration and promote effective communication and collaboration. We nurture children to become creative and independent learners.

The RE curriculum therefore forms an important part of our school's spiritual, moral and social teaching. Our free school RE curriculum is based on Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus and it meets all the requirements set out in The 1996 Education Act that states that an Agreed Syllabus must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, whilst taking account of the teachings and practices of other principal religions represented in Great Britain.

Planning At St Marys

The long and medium term plans ensure that there is progression throughout the school and that children are building upon knowledge learnt in previous years. The topics are designed so that pupils develop knowledge and understanding of the principal religions in Great Britain and Christianity is taught as a core religion at both key stages.

Our RE curriculum allows children to see the similarities within the major religions and make connections. At St Mary's we follow the main Christian Festivals and also embrace festivals from other religions. We recognise that within classes, there is a wide range of abilities and experiences, learning opportunities are therefore differentiated to match the needs of all children.

This is achieved through providing support using a range of teaching and learning styles and adapting questioning to meet the needs of individuals. Where possible, teaching will be supplemented with trips to places of worship, activities within our church and community and visits from people from religious communities (Anderton Park).

The three elements of RE are indicated as follows: Knowledge and Understanding of Religion, Critical Thinking and Personal Reflection

- Pupils in Key Stage 1 are able to identify some beliefs and features of religion.
- Pupils in Lower Key Stage 2 can describe some of the beliefs and features of religion.
- Pupils in Upper Key Stage 2 will demonstrate understanding of some of the beliefs and features of religion through the RE

Displays of children's work in RE are also encouraged both in school and in church.

Assessment

As a free school we have made the decision not to formally assess pupils in RE. We gain insight into children's understanding in religious education through observation and discussion in class and within the wider school community. Written work is completed and marked against literacy criteria; teacher's comments encourage children to reflect on their learning. Although progress is not formally recorded, written and oral responses inform future planning to ensure challenge and extend learning. At the end of the year, the school reports include RE comments for each pupil.

Acts of Worship/Religious Assemblies

Religious education and collective worship make an important, although not exclusive, contribution to spiritual, moral and cultural development. These activities offer explicit opportunities for pupils to consider the response of religion to fundamental questions about the purpose of being, morality and ethical standards, and to develop their own response to such matters.

Every school must by law provide religious education and daily collective worship for all its pupils, with the exception of those pupils who are withdrawn from these activities by their parents. It is a matter of deep concern that in many schools these activities do not take

place with the frequency required or to the standard which pupils deserve. The Government's aim is therefore to improve the quality of the religious education curriculum for pupils in order to ensure that they have the best possible opportunity to develop through this area of the curriculum.' DfE 31st January 1994.

At St Mary's collective worship plays an important role in the spiritual, moral and cultural development of all our pupils. We follow the main Christian Festivals throughout the year while also embracing festivals from other religions.

The Principal delivers two assemblies a week. Rev Matthew (Church of England) delivers his assembly on Tuesday mornings and Joe Whitfield (Baptist Preacher) delivers his interactive assembly fortnightly on Wednesdays. On Mondays the school assembles for hymn practice and on Thursdays pupils have their own inform act of worship within the classroom. On Fridays the Principals assembly covers issues/news relating to our world (Espresso Newsbites) There is a detailed assembly log that was started in September 2013 which also includes resources (See Appendix).

Governor Jane Clarke makes observations and reports back to the Governing Body.